

## Voice of the turtledove again heard in the land

By J B Leftwich

*The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”*  
From the *Song of Solomon*.

The winter is past and so is the spring. Summer came last week but the blistering hot weather did not follow. Indeed, the summer at this writing is like spring just as the spring at times was like winter.

Little has been printed or said about global warming, a topic which even scientists find conflicting evidence, including the continued cooling of the Antarctic icecap.

In this cool spring, the flowers appeared somewhat behind schedule but flourished as blistering temperatures failed to materialize.

First the crocus then the daffodils and later the tulips made their scheduled stops, flourished, then disappeared. Now, the daylilies, the impatiens, the dahlias and begonias and periwinkles thrive. Zinnias and sunflowers are on the threshold. Also dahlias and melapodia.

All have appreciated the cooler days and rains which fall on schedule.

At the farmers' market, Alice Tubb, Kathy Gray, Terry Thompson, Haskell Evans and others are surrounded by vegetables from their fields and gardens -- squash, greenbeans, English peas, potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, onions, and more.

But not tomatoes. At least, not ripe ones. Cool nights and moderate days to not hasten ripening of tomatoes, all to the dismay of tomato customers who are convinced the best tomatoes in the world grow in the fields of Wilson and bordering counties.

And the voice of the turtledove is heard throughout the land? Well, maybe. Maybe not. I haven't heard a single turtledove this spring. But perhaps he is out there exercising his vocal cords or whatever he exercises to make his voice heard. Faulty hearing may have blocked his transmission.

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Some may argue that it is the voice of the turtle, not the voice of the turtledove, that is heard throughout the land. This school of thought simply cites the King James version of the Bible which clearly states the voice of the turtle is the voice heard in the land.

Many books and plays have found their titles in passages of the Bible's Old Testament. Examples: *The Little Foxes*, *Our Vines Have Tender Grapes*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The*

*Voice of the Turtle.*

In 1947, The Voice of the Turtle was filmed. It starred a relatively unheralded actor named Ronald Reagan who never became one of Hollywood' stars.

I wonder what became of him?

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It was appropriate that the flowers had appeared on the earth when Sarah Partee, 96, made her departure from this planet.

Few loved gardening, digging in the earth and planting seed, more than did Sarah Partee, a long-time Lebanon resident and an ardent supporter of her church.

There was no visitation, no funeral, no memorial service. Just a few friends and a few relatives gathered at her grave for a devotional. During the brief service, a prayer she had written and said daily. It merits attention.

*You ushered in another day, untouched and freshly new.  
So here I come, dear Lord, to ask you to renew me too.  
Forgive the many errors I made yesterday.  
And let me try again to walk closer in your way.  
And, Father, I am well aware I can't make it on my own.  
So take my hand and hold it tight for I can't walk alone.*

It was a good time to go now that winter is past and the voice of the turtledove is soon to be heard in our land.

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